

From: steadyed
To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Microsoft Reaches Private Antitrust Settlement

Microsoft Reaches Private Antitrust Settlement

I am the computer specialist at the company I work at. We are a Microsoft based company, not out of choice but because we have no choice. The company is the most powerful monopoly the world has known and now is the time to make real changes so that other companies and software manufactures can provide their skills and products without fear of Microsoft stealing, destroying, or braking interoperability.

This settlement as it stands now is a charade. It makes no sense, looks like a Microsoft pay off and it is horrible for competition and consumer choice as well as the rule of law.

It's like punishing a cigarette company by making it supply schools with free Cigarettes for a few years.

I'm sure Apple Computer and network hardware and software companies for example, will find the settlement unsettling, to say the least. How can others compete any longer in their main markets when a competing company is given the key to the facility and a green light to wire and network the district with their proprietary equipment and software?

It's a hard place to be in for the schools who see Microsoft waving one billion dollars (the cost of what Microsoft would charge, not the actual cost to the company), in front of their face. It's blinding.

Who can argue the benefits of technology to our youth and at first glance, a cost reduction to our schools.

However, I estimate this one billion investment will pay off handsomely and be a windfall for Microsoft and its products entrenchment in those very same schools within the near future. The schools will end up being dependent on one source, which will be of no benefit to anyone but Microsoft.

This is not a remedy, it is a strangle hold on those very schools which will now be completely dependent on Microsoft.

The Ironic thing is that if Microsoft was to offer a billion dollars to set up schools with their equipment in a different environment, it would most likely not be allowed to because it would be anti-competitive since it would block out all other companies that cant compete cost wise.

This act by Microsoft is of course not altruistic. It is just the first step in solidifying it's future for the billions of dollars schools will spend in the upcoming decades. It also makes a future anti-trust case more likely and more unsettling.

You can not punish a company that has over 30 billion plus in cash in the bank(not including non cash assets), by giving them whole markets (and for pennies on the dollar), and call it a Monopoly remedy. That's just a joke.

One billion dollars is the same amount of money that Microsoft is spending on Advertisement alone for

Windows XP.

Microsoft plows over multi-billion dollar companies like Sony, as if they are ants.

The company plans on losing roughly a billion dollars on the Xbox this year alone in-order to solidify a market presence dominated by Nintendo and Sony.

The company has factored in a loss of over one-hundred dollars per Xbox it sells just to gain market share.

How can a start-up or even a thriving company compete with Microsoft when it can sell its products at margins of a one-hundred dollar loss per unit.

Microsoft can lose a billion dollars a year and survive with no problem for over 30 years.

The rest of the Tech industry lives from quarter to quarter and has to compete (or in most every case chooses not to) with Microsoft, who has grown from a darling to a cancer.

This One billion to the schools, like the XP marketing blitz and Xbox expenditures, solidifies a presence in yet another market for Microsoft, one of few markets that it doesn't yet have a Monopoly in.

You got to love the Genius behind Microsoft though. They pulled another fast one on US, the public.

Microsoft out spends the US government until the United States can't stand up against it. It just going to get worse.

I don't pretend to know what the remedy should be, but it needs to be strong, effective and no-nonsense. Even if there is a strong, effective and no nonsense remedy Microsoft will still be unstoppable in my opinion.

Hopefully, the settlement will prevent a third anti-trust case at my(the consumer/tax payers) expense and allow other companies at least a slight chance to compete in an open market, which at this point is almost exclusively a closed Microsoft market.

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